details of sugar cane availability position in the proposed factory area.

Sd/. (P.K.S. Iyer)
Director New Delhi, 2-1-1987.

F.NO. 10/133/86-L.P.

Press Information Bureau is requested kindly to give wide publicity to the above Press Note_ Press Information Bureau, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi

Special thrust programmes for increasing the production of foodgrains.oilsecds and pulses

♦329. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA; SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN;

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1288 given in ihe Rajya Sabha on the 5th August, 1988 and state:

(a) the names and the dates of commencement of the Special Thrust Programmes of Government for increasing the production of foodgrains, oilseeds and pulses and the States covered by the said Programme;

(b) the results of eaeh such Programme in each of the last three years and the ourrent year; and

(c) whether any other similar programmes are being formulated?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) and (b) The following Special Thrust Programmes for increasing the production of cereal grains pulses and oilseeds are in operation:-^ 1. *Specia! Rice Production Programme (SRPP)*

This programme was launched in 1985-86 in the States of Assam, Bihar, eastern Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, eastern U.P. and West Bengal. The average annual production of rice in 6 eastern States has increased to 332.1 lakh tonnes during the triennium ending 1987-88 as compared to 282.5 lakh tonnes during the triennium ending 1984-85. The rice production in the SRPP States during 1988-89 is expected to be very good.

1. Special Foodgrains Production Programme (SFPP)

This Programme was launched from Kharif 1988-89. The crops included are rice, wheat, maize, gram and. arhar. Special Foodgrains Production Programmes are in operation in the 14 selected States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihat, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, M.P., Maha-rash'ra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, U.P. and West Bengal. Our oi these 14 States SFPP—Rice covers all the States except Rajasthan. SFPP— Wheat covers States of Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan and U.P. SFPP—Maize covers Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and U.P. SFPP—Gram covera Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and U.P. and SFPP—Arhar covers Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and U.P.

Estimated Production of foodgrains in 1988-89 would exceed the targeted level of 166.6 million tonnes.

3. *Oilseeds Production Thrust Project (OPTP)*

This Programme was launched in 1987-88 in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, J & K Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharash-tra,, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, U.P. and West Bengal.

As a result of effective implementaion of OPTP, the production of oilseeds durng 1987-88 increased to 123.8 lakh tonnes despite worst drought as against 112.7 lakh tonnes production during 1986-87. The productivity also increased from 605 kgjha in 1986-87 to 619 kg Jha in 1987-88. Area coverage increased to

200.0 lakh ha from 186.3 lakh ba dur. ing this period. During the current yeai the production of oilseeds are likeiy to reach a record level, as a result of various measures taken by the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

Subsidy to fertilizer industry

330. SHRl SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will ths Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware that nearly Rs. 3000 crores aie given as sub sidy to fertilizer sector;

(b) whether Government are aware that this subsidy helps only industry and big formers; and

(c) if so, Ihe steps Government are taking to reduce the subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRl BHAJAN LAL); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The principle underlying the Retention Price and Subsidy Scheme is to protect the interest of farmers by making available fertilizers at uniform notified prices which they can afford and at the same time to ensure reasonable renin on investment to the manufacturers and thus facilitate the growth of fertiliser industry.

With a view to reducing- subsidy on indigenous fertilisers, differential levels of opacity utilsation and longer economic life of plant and machinery have been assumed for fixing the retention price | for the fifth pricing period commencing from 1-4-1988.

Sale of additional items throngh the out-lets of PDS

*331. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will ihe Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have urged the St:.te Governments to explore the possibilities of selling additional items through Che outlets of the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, whether the State of Madhya Pradesh have accepted the recommenda tion and have raised additional essential items for distribution in the fair price shops, and

(c) if so, what are the items that were so increased and whether the supplies of these items were also made available to the State Governments?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Government has informed that it distributes Jowar and Maiza depending on their availability ITie State Government procures these items on their own.

Collaboration in seed development

*332. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE bes pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms and conditions laid down by Government for grant of technical/financial collaboration involving, foreign equity participation as well as technical collaboration on royalty payment basis separately in seed develop* ment;

(b) whether approval of the Department of Bio-technology is required for such collaboation; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the authority which approves col-laboration referred to above and the formalities required from Indian compa-nies/firms for allowing such collaboration

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL); (a) The production of certified high yielding hybrid seeds and hybrids of plantlets developed through plants tissue culture has been recognised as a high technology area, and has been included in 198t>, in the Appendix-I to Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 for participation by MRTP/FERA companies. The usual norms and conditions laid down by